



BWC Recording and Phone Calls

P&P Section 6.131 Body Worn Cameras explains the Sheriff's Department's intent is to record all law enforcement related contacts to include investigative interviews. Often, initial statements and information critical to investigations is obtained via telephone conversations. Deputies are highly encouraged to utilize BWCs to record telephone interviews which are likely to provide information related to a criminal investigation when possible.

Scenarios when BWC recording of telephone conversations would be encouraged:

- Conducting a witness interview by phone
- Interviewing a reporting party of a crime or law enforcement incident by phone

Considerations while recording a telephone conversation:

- Ensuring BWC recording of telephone conversations is in an area where others would expect recording to take place
- Try to prevent private or unrelated conversations and events from being recorded as well as sensitive information
- There are times when recording telephone conversations would not be practical due to the environment or nature of the conversation and deputy discretion must be applied (i.e. communication with other deputies or supervisors)
- Utilize the speaker phone feature to increase the quality of the sound recording

Any questions about BWCs, please contact the Video Analysis Unit at VAU@sdsheriff.org .